



Job Title: **Agricultural Science Research Technician**
Department: **Department Of Agriculture**
Agency: **Agricultural Research Service**
Job Announcement Number: **ARS-X14E-0040**

SALARY RANGE: \$41,512.00 to \$66,008.00 / Per Year
OPEN PERIOD: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 to Wednesday, March 26, 2014
SERIES & GRADE: GS-0404-07/09
POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time - Permanent
DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy in the following location:
Saint Paul, MN
WHO MAY APPLY: US Citizens and Status Candidates
SECURITY CLEARANCE: Q - Nonsensitive
SUPERVISORY STATUS: No
JOB SUMMARY:

Find Solutions to Agricultural Problems that Affect Americans Every Day, From Field to Table

The incumbent performs routine support of research projects working with a Research Scientist in the Cereal Disease Research Unit in St. Paul, Minnesota.

This job opportunity announcement may be used to fill additional vacancies.

TRAVEL REQUIRED

- Occasional Travel
- Occasional overnight travel for rust collection.

RELOCATION AUTHORIZED

- No

KEY REQUIREMENTS

- You must be a U.S. Citizen to apply for this position
- Suitable for Federal employment, determined by a background investigation
- Males born after 12/31/59 must be registered with Selective Service

DUTIES:

Support duties may include, but are not limited to:

Performs a variety of complex technical duties in the laboratory, greenhouse, or field plots.

Prepares and conducts field experiments to evaluate disease severity and operates/maintains the necessary equipment.

Maintains field disease nursery.

Grows, maintains, crosses, and harvests plants and screens cereal germplasm and populations with rust.

Performs extractions of DNA from cereals and rusts, amplifications of molecular markers, gel electrophoresis and characterization, and cloning of DNA fragments.

Performs chemical analysis using a variety of specialized complex laboratory equipment such as capillary electrophoresis machine, spectrophotometers, thermal cyclers, centrifuges, pH meter and analytical scales.

Maintains inventory of chemicals, prepares solutions and reagents for us in the laboratory, field, or greenhouse, and safely disposes of waste materials.

Trains and supervises part-time students to assist in the greenhouse and field experiment.

Keeps, exact, detailed records of experimental data. Tabulates, statistically analyses and summarizes data using personal computers.

Develops single-pustule isolates of cereal rusts, increasing rust isolates, and phenotyping and genotyping diverse isolates of cereal rust.

Working Conditions and Other Considerations:

Occasional overnight travel for rust collection.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

GS-07: Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-06 grade level or 1 full year of directly related graduate level education. (Directly related graduate education includes: plant pathology, molecular biology, plant breeding and microbiology)

GS-08: Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-07 grade level. OR 1 1/2 years of directly related graduate level education. (Directly related graduate education includes: plant pathology, molecular biology, plant breeding and microbiology)

GS-09: Applicants must have 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-08 grade level OR 2 years of directly related graduate level education. (Directly related graduate education includes: plant pathology, molecular biology, plant breeding and microbiology)

Additional Requirements:

Specialized experience is experience which has equipped the applicant with the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to perform the duties of this position stated below.

1. Knowledge of biological science methods and procedures related to plant pathology.
2. Skill in experimental design using statistical analysis methods to lay out field plots.
3. Skill in operating and maintaining specialized laboratory and field equipment relevant in the field of plant pathology.
4. Skill in the use of personal computers and software packages to collect and summarize data.

Applicants must address the specialized experience requirements in their resume (or application documents).

Applications that do not reflect the specialized experience requirements will not be deemed qualified.

If qualifying all or in part based on your education, you must submit a copy of your academic transcripts OR a list of college courses with credit hours, dates completed, and grade point average or class ranking to verify education when applying for this position. If this information is not provided, your education may not be appropriately evaluated and you may lose consideration for this position. If you are selected for this position, you will have to provide an official copy of your transcripts prior to entering on duty.

Graduate education must be directly related to the work of the position and must have equipped you with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work.

Education completed outside of the United States must be deemed equivalent to that gained in conventional/accredited U.S. education programs to be acceptable for Federal employment. It is your responsibility to provide such evidence when applying. Please visit the [Office of Personnel Management's website](#) for additional information on this topic.

Time-in-grade restrictions apply for all candidates considered under Alternative Merit Promotion.

Qualification requirements must be met by the closing date of this vacancy announcement.

Applicants must be available to report for duty at the time a selection is made. Selections are typically made within 30 days of the closing date of the announcement.

HOW YOU WILL BE EVALUATED:

You will be evaluated to determine if you meet the basic and any additional requirements. The Agricultural Research Service uses a category rating process. Based on evaluation of all written materials submitted in your application for the position, you will be determined to be Ineligible if you do not meet eligibility and/or minimum qualifications criteria; Eligible if you meet all eligibility and minimum qualifications criteria; OR Quality if you meet quality criteria in addition to eligibility and minimum qualifications criteria.

BENEFITS:

The Federal government offers a number of exceptional benefits to its employees. The following link provides an overview of the benefits currently offered to Federal employees:

https://help.usajobs.gov/index.php/Pay_and_Benefits

OTHER INFORMATION:

Persons with disabilities, disabled veterans who have a compensable service-connected disability of 30% or more, certain other veterans, spouses of certain members of the armed forces, and returning Peace Corps volunteers are examples of individuals who are potentially eligible for non-competitive appointment. For further information [click here](#).

Qualified candidates eligible under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA) will be considered. VEOA

eligibles are preference eligibles or veterans who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of active service. Veterans who are released under honorable conditions shortly before completing a 3-year tour are also eligible. You must submit member 4 copy of your DD-214.

Displaced/Surplus Employees: Individuals eligible under the USDA Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) must be well qualified for the position to receive consideration for special priority selection. CTAP and ICTAP eligibles within the local commuting area will be considered well qualified if they meet basic eligibility requirements and all selective factors, and are rated in the Quality Category as described in the How You Will Be Evaluated section. Employees seeking CTAP/ICTAP eligibility must submit a copy of the agency notice, a copy of their most recent performance rating and a copy of their most recent SF-50 noting current position, grade level and duty location. [Click here](#) for additional information on CTAP and ICTAP.

If you are a veteran with preference eligibility and you are claiming 5-point veterans' preference, you must submit Member 4 copy of your DD-214 or other proof of eligibility. **If you are claiming 10-point veterans' preference,** you must submit an SF-15, Application for 10-Point Veterans' Preference plus the proof required by that form.

Financial Disclosure Requirement: Federal employees are subject to prohibitions against officially dealing with outside organizations in which they have a financial interest. If hired for this position, you **may/will** be required to submit a financial disclosure report within 30 days of the effective date of your appointment and annually thereafter.

Reasonable Accommodation: If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, or have questions regarding reasonable accommodation and/or accessibility for any part of the application and hiring process, please contact the Disability Program Manager on 202-720-6161 or through the DC Relay Service on 202-855-1234 (TDD).

False Statements: If you make a false statement in any part of your application, you may not be hired; may be fired after beginning work; or may be fined or jailed.

HOW TO APPLY:

Your application package must be complete by 11:59 p.m. (EST) on Wednesday, March 26, 2014. You must apply online or by fax (see below for details). Applications sent by mail (including e-mail) or hand-delivered will not be accepted. [Certain individuals](#) are entitled to file a late application and must contact the Agency Contact listed below for details and application instructions.

Choose either Option A or Option B to apply for this position:

Option A: Online Application

Click the Apply Online button to create an account or log in to your existing USAJOBS account. Follow the prompts to complete the occupational questionnaire and upload (or reuse) supporting documents. You must click the Submit My Answers button at the end of the process.

Note: To verify your application is complete, log into your USAJOBS account, <https://my.usajobs.gov/Account/Login>, select the Application Status link and then select the more information link for this position. The Details page will display the status of your application, the documentation received and processed, and any correspondence the agency has sent related to this application. Your uploaded documents may take several hours to clear the virus scan process.

To return to an incomplete application, log into your USAJOBS account and click Update Application in the vacancy announcement. You must re-select your resume and/or other documents from your USAJOBS account or your application will be incomplete.

To fax supporting documents that you are unable to upload:

1. [Click here](#) to print a fax cover page.

2. Complete all blocks on the cover page using Vacancy ID 1049515. Documents will not be processed if information is missing.
3. Fax the completed cover page and your documents to **1-478-757-3144**.

Option B: Fax

If you cannot apply online, follow these steps to fax your complete application package.

1. Click the following link to print the occupational questionnaire [View Occupational Questionnaire](#);
2. Print the [1203FX](#) form, which you will use to provide your responses to the occupational questionnaire; and
3. Fax the completed 1203FX (all 6 pages), your resume, and supporting documents (including those specified in the Required Documents section below) to **1-478-757-3144**. The 1203FX will serve as the cover page for your fax transmission and must be placed on top of all other documents.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

The following documents are required:

- Assessment questionnaire (completed online or submitted by fax using the 1203FX)
- Resume (OF-612 will not be accepted)

Supporting documents (if applicable):

- Transcripts or list of college courses with credit hours, major(s), and grade point average or class ranking
- SF-50 that includes title, series, grade and tenure (if you are a current or former Federal employee)
- Most recent performance appraisal (if you are a current Federal employee)
- Veterans' documentation (DD-214, SF-15, etc.)
- Documentation providing proof of non-competitive eligibility
- CTAP/ICTAP documentation

If your application package does not contain all required documents, you may lose consideration for the position.

Please do not include your Social Security Number (SSN) on your resume or supporting documents.

AGENCY CONTACT INFO:

Marla Dickens
Phone: (301)504-1351
TDD: 202-855-1234
Email: MARLA.DICKENS@ARS.USDA.GOV

Agency Information:
Agricultural Research Service
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD
20705

WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT:

Once the online questionnaire is received you will receive an acknowledgement email. After a review of your complete application is made you will be notified of your rating and or referral to the hiring official. If further evaluation or interviews are required you will be contacted.

Control Number: 361752300

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